

## Text of Letter From Fulbright to Dulles

Special to The New York Times.  
**WASHINGTON, Feb. 9**—Following is the text of a letter today from Senator J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles on ambassadorial appointments:

Feb. 5, 1959

The Honorable  
 John Foster Dulles  
 Secretary of State  
 Washington, D. C.

As you know, members of the Committee on Foreign Relations have been concerned for several years that some of our ambassadorial appointments have not been up to the standard that should be maintained if our interests abroad are to be fully promoted. Indeed, on April 3, 1957, Chairman [Theodore Francis] Green wrote to you stating:

"In view of the heavy responsibilities of the United States throughout the world and the importance to us of relations with other countries, we should have first-rate ambassadors in every post. . . . The test in every case should be whether a nominee for a particular post is the ambassador who can best serve the interests of this country there. . . ."

"It is generally known that Presidents and Secretaries of

State of both political parties have been under pressure from those who feel that an ambassadorship is a reward for past service or help. In my opinion, we can no longer afford to give way to such pressure in appointment-making. . . ."

"It should be obvious in each case, whether the nominee is a career man or not, that his record, his intelligence, his background and his attitude are such that he will ably serve our country in his assignment."

"It has seemed to me that if the committee is properly to exercise its advice and consent function in connection with ambassadorial appointments, it is important that it have not only the usual biographic data and statement regarding security clearances, but that it also receive for its confidential use certain other information which the President must consider prior to filling one of these important posts."

Frankly I do not know precisely what form this information may take. I would assume, however, that prior to submitting such appointments, the department and the President must have information before them of a kind which would normally be utilized by a corporation—

or perhaps a college president—prior to filling important positions.

With respect to ambassadorial appointments, for example, I would think the authorities concerned with the appointments would want to know of the candidate's language ability, his ability as an administrator, his ability to make friends, the nature and depth of his interest in foreign affairs generally, as well as specifically in the country to which he is being sent, the interests which may be brought to bear on him in his post, and similar matters.

Because the President and the Senate share the power to appoint Ambassadors, it seems to me that when the Senate confirms a nomination, it should have before it the same kind of information which the Executive had in making the nomination.

I hope, therefore, that you will be able to supply me with background information on candidates of a more nearly complete nature than has been available to us in the past.

I suggest that such information might be supplied beginning with the nomination of Mr. [Ogden R.] Reid to be Ambassador to Israel.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. FULBRIGHT